

LAMMERT BROS.

AND SURVIVORS
Public Auctioneers

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, on SATURDAY, 28th March, 1924, at 11 a.m. at their Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, (for account of the concerned) 6 Bales Blankets (stored in 2nd floor, No. 2 Godown, Holt's Wharf, Kowloon). Terms:—Cash on delivery.

LAMMERT BROS.
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, March 26, 1924.

on TUESDAY, 1st April, 1924, commencing at 11 a.m. at Godown No. 1 (Lower) The Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., Kowloon (for account of the concerned), 100 Tons Sulphate of Ammonia (Long Crystals—English). Terms:—Cash on delivery.

LAMMERT BROS.
Auctioneers.

on TUESDAY, 1st April, 1924, commencing at 2.45 p.m. at "Chater's Bungalow", North No. 66, Nathan Road, Kowloon. A Quantity of Valuable Household Furniture, comprising:

Teak hatstand, chest-of-drawers and chairs, tables, brass fenders, brass ornaments, curtains, etc., etc.
Extension dining table, chairs, sideboard with bevelled mirror, dinner wagon, iron chest, crockery, glass ware, etc., etc.
White metal bedstead, springs and mattress, double and single wardrobes with glass doors, chest of drawers, dressing table, washing stand, toilet sets, etc., etc.

And One Yacht Piano, by ORAMER & Co.

Catalogues will be issued. On View on MONDAY the 31st March 1924.

Terms:—Cash on delivery.

LAMMERT BROS.
Auctioneers.

THE Undersigned have received instructions from Owners and Underwriters to sell by Public Auction

on TUESDAY, 1st April, 1924, at Noon, at their Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, Hongkong. The British River Steamer "Huang Shan"

as she now lies in her present condition in the Canton River, beached opposite Larkins Point (Kellist Reach) Sheikhan Passage.

Term:—Cash on fall of hammer when the vessel will be at Purchaser's Risk.

LAMMERT BROS.
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 26th March, 1924.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

Level and Storage of water in reservoirs on the 1st March 1924.

ON THE 1st MARCH 1924.

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C. E. WARREN & CO., LTD.

SALES AND ENGINEERING
MOTORVEHICLES
Office and Godown,
54, Wanchai Road, Hongkong.
Tel. Central No. 222.

AND KEVIN OF HOLLAND'S REQUIREMENTS
IN STOCK

FOR VENT AND BATHING
FLOORS & WALL TILES—BATHS, BATHS
AND BOOKS—STAIRS—WASH
TUBS—ON OR ON COAL FURN
NEW CRIP HALLS.

OWN AND CLOTHES—COOKING
RANGES.

ESSENTIALS FOR ALL BATHING
INSTALLATIONS—
HOT WATER SYSTEMS, &c.
GENERAL REPAIRS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

SPECIALISTS IN MONUMENTAL WORK
ON ITALIAN MARBLE OR
HONGKONG GRANITE.

JUST RECEIVED
ARRIVALS OF ITALIAN MARBLE FLOOR TILES
PRICES ON APPLICATION.

AMSTERDAM, WAREHOUSE FROM 8' to 18'
DIAMETER
IN STOCK.

FOR SALE
Postage Stamp Collection of
10,000 varieties
for \$395 net.

A Packet that will please any Collector.
Hundreds of really fine stamps, many
hundreds of them being 19th century. A
wonderful packet for one just starting a
collection.

GRACE & CO.,
Dealers in Philatelic Goods, View
Post Cards, Religious Goods,
Garden Seeds, &c.
No. 10, Wyndham Street,
P. O. Box No. 620. Hongkong.

SHOEMAKERS.
Japanese Hand Made

Every kind of Footwear.
MADE TO ORDER.

CHERRY & CO.,
6, D'AGUIAR STREET,
Opposite Kowloon Ferry, Hongkong.
Telephone Central No. 491.

WHY BUY FOREIGN
MADE SUITCASES
When we sell Shanghai
Manufactured Suitcases?
They are Cheaper and
More Durable.

CHAO CHEUNG TRUNK CO.
(Opposite Yauwatt Ferry, Hongkong)

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ODDS AND ENDS.

MAINLY BOISBONS LOOT.

Tong's in Man's Body.

A mechanic named John Henry Hitt, employed at Messrs. Cammell, Laird, and Company's engineering works, Nottingham was holding a pair of tongs 22ft. long when a power-hammer drove them through his body. He was rushed with the tongs in his body to the Nottingham General Hospital, where the tongs were extracted. It is thought no vital organ was injured and he is expected to recover. The hospital staff declare the operation to be one of the most remarkable ever performed.

"Dear Sir"

When, at a London and Southern Counties' conference of the Independent Labour Party at Hampstead a resolution was passed congratulating the Minister of Pensions on the steps he had taken to remove the taint of the Poor Law from mentally afflicted ex-Servicemen, the proposer, Mr. John Beckett, said that already a more courteous tone was observable whenever he wrote to the Pension Ministry now the reply came back starting "Dear Sir," where before it was only "Sir." It was a little thing, but it was an indication of a more considerate and polite spirit in the Ministry.

War Munitions Cheap.

If anybody wants to start a full-size rebellion outside the United States, the Rosen Margolies Company, Philadelphia, can deliver 1,050 machine guns, 7,200 rifles, and 15,000,000 cartridges, dirt cheap. The dealers say it is no concern of theirs what the purchasers do with the munitions providing they are paid for, but the authorities here question this view, and are examining the best way of dispersing or destroying the goods, which menace, it is considered, the peaceful citizens of Philadelphia. The war supplies are described as "part of the scrapped material purchased privately from the United States Government." An inquiry by the New York Times revealed the existence hitherto unknown, of the trade in the Quaker city of Pennsylvania.

Voice From the Minaret.

It has been decided that the practice of announcing deaths from the galleries of the minarets of the mosques at Cusarea, Anatolia, shall be abolished, on the ground that it is disturbing to sick people. In future the announcement of deaths and of funeral arrangements will be made by the town crier. It is the custom in most Moslem countries for the mosque, when the bells toll the faithful to pray from the high gallery which encircles the minaret of every mosque to announce deaths or any other matter affecting the community.

Four Outstanding Men.

Who are the four outstanding men of the twentieth century? This is the subject of a questionnaire to the presidents of the American Universities, and the replies given are very diversified. Dr. Burton, president of the University of Michigan, says the answer depends upon what basis you select, and he prefers the basis of "valuable contributions to society." He gives four names, all Americans—Theodore Roosevelt, for his comprehension of the social problems of his time; Henry Ford, for industrial development leading to a new social order; Thomas Edison, for his inventive genius; and Orville Wright, for his creative work in heavier than air flying. Bishop Brent, president of Hobart College, gives Woodrow Wilson, Cardinal Mercier, Lenin, and Gandhi.

Politics and Letters.

Young men of letters have taken kindly to political life in the House of Commons, observes John of London's Weekly. Many have tried it; most have found the atmosphere unsympathetic. In view of Mr. Hilaire Belloc's caustic observation on the matter, it is not a little surprising to read that a move is on foot to approach J. C. Squire with a view to his standing at the next election as Liberal candidate for the Brentford (and Chiswick Division of Middlesex). Mr. Squire is a notably versatile man, but it would be distressing to see his literary genius cramped by the exigencies of the Parliamentary life. Illuminated Flowers.

The potentialities of electric light in schemes of decoration for a room or table are not only very great, but allow play for individual tastes and the expression of ideas (points out the Daily Telegraph). This form of decoration is in especial being used in connection with artificial flowers. While a great many people have a prejudice against artificial flowers, the industry has certainly attained to a great height of artistic achievement and these flowers are enjoying a phase among those who recognize their value in the hall or in a dark corner of a room. At a recent exhibition a very beautiful bowl of realistic water-lilies was shown, in which small electric bulbs were concealed, and every flower-head and when the switch was turned on, the effect was magical. Bowls of realistic lilies and flower buds of many kinds can be treated in the same way.

Murder Mission.

Information has been received in Lausanne of a plot organized by the Cheka, the Russian "Secret Police," to kill Conrad and Pulutin in revenge for the assassination of a year ago of Vorovsky, the Russian delegate to Lausanne Peace Conference. Pulutin, who is now in Paris, was recently summoned before the prefect of the Seine, who told him that an agent of the Cheka had left Moscow entrusted with a mission to organize his assassination and that of Conrad. Conrad, a Swiss, who served in the Russian Army, shot Vorovsky, and Pulutin, a Russian intellectual, was accused of being his accomplice. They were acquitted at their trial at Lausanne last November.

Cardinals' Dish.

The Vatican has begun work on a project which the Pope has been long maturing; providing for free residences for cardinals whose duties render their presence in Rome obligatory. Apartments are being fitted up in the building of the Holy Office near St. Peter's, and also in the building of St. Callistus, where Cardinal Guiseppe carries on the work of revision of the Vulgate. Cardinals now live on what is termed the "Cardinal's dish," equal at present exchange to about \$200 yearly. Owing to the housing famine, rents are often now paid, and cardinals who do not possess means of their own are sorely tried to find suitable apartments. Hence the Pope's determination to house them in buildings belonging to the Holy See.

Curious Portrait Dispute.

A curious dispute between M. Thevenot, the well-known French artist, and the Comtesse d'Hautpoul has come before the First Chamber of the Seine Tribunal for settlement. In 1920 the Comtesse commissioned Thevenot to make a portrait of her. The original arrangement was for a head and shoulders portrait, but the artist was so impressed by the effect of the white dress with a purple scarf worn by his sister that he offered to extend the head and shoulders portrait to full length without any addition to his fee. His offer was accepted, but shortly afterwards the sittings were stopped owing to the Comtesse being called away from Paris, and the artist then confined himself to a head and shoulders portrait. Some time later, after the portrait had been finished and delivered, the Comtesse saw in an exhibition a full length picture of a woman wearing a toilette exactly like that in which she had sat to the painter. She identified the features, too, as her own, and concluding that this was the full length portrait which M. Thevenot had promised her, she claimed it. M. Thevenot admitted that the costume was the same, but declared that the face was that of another model on whom he had put the dress originally worn by the Comtesse for her portrait. The Court, having heard statements by counsel for both parties, is to give judgment later.

Students' Naval "Rag."

An original and rather persuasive way of arguing with the tax collector has just been demonstrated by Paris students. Recently, the Students' Association, which does a great deal to help poor students to make ends meet, had a ball at the Opera which yielded 500,000 francs. The law provides that the "Assistance Publique," which corresponds to the Poor Law administration, shall take a percentage of profits of all entertainments, and the officials therefore deducted 77,000 francs from the funds raised for the students. The students objected that the Assistance Publique was entitled only to 5 instead of 25 per cent., but their appeals for a return of the 60,000 francs overpaid met with no success. The students then resorted to wile and guile. In accordance with plans, the secret of which was perfectly kept, four hundred of them suddenly assembled in front of the headquarters of the Assistance Publique, and with a war-cry of "Soixante mille!" they stormed the place. Their attack was so sudden that before the alarm could be given they had entered the building and found Secretary-General Becher and Administrator Brabey, whom they threatened to hold prisoners until the 60,000 francs had been handed over. For nearly an hour the officials were held captive in their office, while students of various windows delivered speeches to the crowd assembled outside. The siege was at last raised by a strong body of police, who after some scuffling, cleared the students out of the building and forced them to retreat to their headquarters. Here a police patrol was posted in the street to guard against the students making another sortie, but the officers were kept at a respectful distance from the door, as when they showed signs of approaching they were met by a drenching stream from a fire-hose. There was no serious trouble, however, and as the students began to leave in groups and threes, the police guard was dismissed.

For Children's Bronchitis.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are the best remedy for children's bronchitis. They are a powerful blood purifier and tonic, and will cure the most stubborn cases of this disease. They are also a general health-giver, and will strengthen the system, and improve the appetite. They are a most valuable remedy for all children, and are sold in every drug store.

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DENMARK GIANTS.

NATIONAL GYMNASICS FOR ALL.

Denmark has discovered the secret of national health, apparently, and other countries are catching the enthusiasm. People from all classes of society, and of all occupations, leave their business for a period to enjoy the training in the National Gymnasiums, retaining with a conscious fitness, which is well illustrated by a recent demonstration, enthusiastically described by one writer thus—

From the wings, sprang twenty-four young men clad in blue from head to ankle. They came, records a writer "so swiftly and lightly that they seemed blown along by stormy winds." One after the other, in rapid succession they touched a raised platform with their hands, turned a hand-spring over it, then again in the air formed a magnificent arch of moving blue as though swinging from hill to hill into a splendid new world—a world very young and clean and vital, filled with sunlight and health and a surpassing radiance. A flight of swallows on a windy March morning could scarcely be more swift, sure and ethereal.

These young men were not trained athletes or professional performers. They were a group of pupils from the People's College at Ollerup, Denmark.

The pupils performing these feats of finely co-ordinated movement were, in the main, young men from the farms who have attended the famous school at Ollerup, and after completing their course of study and gymnastics will return to their various rural occupations. But with what a totally different, what an enlightened, outlook on life! They go back to work with a "fine sense of mental, spiritual and physical sureness." The complete mastery of their bodies will have made them largely masters over circumstance. For such physical control could only result from well-co-ordinated minds, existing in the overcoming of obstacles.

Among the pupils at the People's College, not only in Ollerup, but throughout Denmark and Norway, are young women as well as men; and the vigorous, wholesome, capable-looking women who took part in this demonstration in New York were also mainly recruited from the farms. What a magnificent gift—from a nation to her people! For these Danish People's Colleges have been subsidized by the nation, have won the interest and approval of the King, and are filled throughout the year with young people from all over the country, who, in time, return to their vocations, great or humble, with an unflinching respect for their bodies, a fitness for labour and an eager delight in life itself which must come to the man or woman in perfect physical condition.

About 58,000 people have signed the petition for the remission of part of the sentence of 18 months' imprisonment passed on Fry Cusden, 20, of Reading, at last Berkshire Assizes for throwing vitriol over a young married woman. Cusden is expected to become a mother in May.

Back Pains
Most often Lumbago Nervous
Many men, and women too, in the Far East are victim to a painful condition brought on by climatic influences and other causes. The chief symptoms are pains in the back as if from a headache, nervous depression, loss of appetite, weak digestion, a general sense of uneasiness, and a feeling of general weakness. To try to overcome this condition by means of alcohol or stimulants is erroneous in the extreme. What is needed is a new, rich red blood which will revitalize the system and all the organs of the body. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are the best remedy for this condition. They are a powerful blood purifier and tonic, and will cure the most stubborn cases of this disease. They are also a general health-giver, and will strengthen the system, and improve the appetite. They are a most valuable remedy for all children, and are sold in every drug store.

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For Children's Bronchitis.

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HOTELS & CAFES.

HONGKONG

Hongkong Hotel, Repulse Bay Hotel

Telegraphic Address: "Kremlin, Hongkong"

AND SHANGHAI

Avon House Hotel, Palace Hotel

Grand Hotel Kalso, Majestic Hotel

Telegraphic Address: "Central, Shanghai"

HOTELS, LIMITED.

In association with the Grand Hotel des Wagons Lits, Ltd.

PEKING.

THE ONLY AMERICAN HOTEL IN THE COLONY.

Also, and only, a first-class hotel with the Banks and Central Districts. A new Dining Room has been opened on No. 3, Queen's Road (1st floor). Entrance to Hotel Street. Times a specialty. For terms apply to Mrs. E. E. CAMERON, Proprietress.

Palace Hotel

Three minutes from Kowloon Ferry Wharf & Railway Station. Entirely under English Management. Electric Light and Fans Throughout. Every Room with Private Bath. Lounge Bar & Billiard Room. Unrivalled Cuisine under the personal supervision of the Proprietor. Terms moderate. Special terms to families on application to J. H. OXBERRY, Proprietor.

HOTEL "ASIA"

WEST BUND, CANTON.

Leading Hotel in South China.

First class Accommodation. Electric Lights, Fans and Elevators. Roof Garden. Hairdressing Salon.

Splendid Views of City and Pearl River.

Excellent Cuisine. Moderate Rates.

Under the Management of the

SUN OO, LTD., CANTON.

ASTOR HOUSE HOTEL.

Telegraphic address "ASTOR" Telephone Central 170.

13, Queen's Road Central.

A first class Hotel centrally located, large and airy rooms, completely renovated and furnished. New Dining Room for Meals and La Carte. Excellent Cuisine. Monthly Tickets for Table and Dinners. Under entirely new Management.

For further particulars apply to

M. A. VAZ, Manager.

VICTORIA GARDENS.

HANKOW ROAD, KOWLOON, NEXT DOOR TO NEW KOWLOON HOTEL.

BOARD and RESIDENCE. Every house comfort. Very large well furnished double and single rooms. One minute from steamer, Personal supervision. Terms from \$4 per week.

MRS. STEWART OGILVIE, Proprietress.

KING EDWARD HOTEL.

14, WILKINSON STREET, KOWLOON. 14, D'AGUIAR STREET.

BURNETT'S

FINEST LONDON

DRY GIN

Unique in Character & Flavour,
GIVES THAT DISTINCTIVE EXCELLENCE
TO A COCKTAILBURNETT'S Gin was a house word in London before
most of the men who fought in the big war were born—
AND STILL ISSole Importers
A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.
Wine and Spirits Merchants,
ESTABLISHED 51 YEARS.**Powell Ltd.**
Phone Central 4578JUST ARRIVED
SPRING
MILLINERY.*
DRESSES.
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SUNSHADES.
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SILK HOSIERY.**WM. POWELL, LTD.**
12, Des Voeux Road Central**B.B.B. PIPES IN GREAT VARIETY
AT LOW PRICES.**
CALL AND INSPECT—
HONGKONG CIGAR
STORE CO., LTD.

Tortoise-Shell Frames For Reading Glasses.

N. LAZARUS. Hongkong's Only European
Optician.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG THURSDAY, MAR. 27, 1924.

"EVER INCREASING
PROMOTION."

The Chinese are invariably happy in producing names whose English equivalents, to say the least, are distinctly hopeful and pleasing. We may therefore add our wishes to the many which have followed the launching of the "Lien Shing"—Englished as above, and wish the boat a long and successful career afloat—always afloat and never ashore!—and to her owners and builders, congratulations and best wishes. It is a happy augury that in the depressing nature of the shipping business, owners are in an entirely optimistic vein; and builders quietly confident of their powers to build not for an age but for all time. It is all to the good and a general sign of local times that ships used in what we may call local trade, should be built in local shipyards, and in one that has a right to depend upon local support seeing it is able—and willing—to turn out boats that cannot be excelled elsewhere. A fair field and no favour is what Mr. Dyer asks for and we hope his slogan will be noted. The outstanding fact in connection with this particular launching is that of the

there, are in keeping with the main features of the building, the Colony should be well satisfied. But after all is said and done it is a commercial venture and will succeed or not as the fickle taste of the public decrees. Our idea of a Theatre is that it should not necessarily be dependent upon or worry itself concerning the capriciousness of the public, which is notorious variable. The ideal to aim at is what we may call a City Theatre, or a Peoples' Theatre. Manila is setting an example in this respect and is being worthily assisted by the Government who have given or leased a plot of land of large area. Those promoting "The Manila Cervantes Theatre" are appealing to the public for capital in the sum of shares of 60 pesos each and already half the capital has been subscribed. The appeal is made to all classes of the community. We confess the idea appeals to us and we suggest that a similar effort be made in Hongkong. It is much to be desired that the community here should be financially interested in its own Theatre. Most of us could find \$50 to become a shareholder, not necessarily looking for any great return on the money so expended, but content to have a holding in a venture that should do much to extend cultural movements of every conceivable kind in the Colony. A scheme similar to the Manila Cervantes Theatre could easily be formulated. It simply needs those with a little public spirit and a belief in the aims of culture to launch the scheme. Success will surely follow.

In the House.
We are getting familiar with the frequent references to Hongkong in the British House of Commons, as a result of questions put by interested members who have either been asked to do so, or have been impelled thereto by their own feelings on certain matters. Thus Colonel John Ward becomes the mouthpiece of the Constitutional Reform Association and presents their petition for a reform of Hongkong's Constitution. The Colonel has lived here, knows the conditions of Hongkong and the aspirations of a great number of its residents, and being a democrat, finds no difficulty in voicing their views. Lady Astor is on another tack but discretion is not her strong point—rather the fervour of undisciplined Saintliness, filled with the horror of unknown possibilities. "Arising out of that question" comes the enquiry regarding the protection of Chinese girls and the reasonable and truthful reply. The latest question and answer refers to the Colony's typhoon precautions, and as these are tolerably well known, need no recapitulation. In the old days, questions concerning Hongkong seemed to come from one source—Mr. Gershom Stewart, whose knowledge of Hongkong was gained through living and working here. Now the questions are likely to be more numerous and to come from different sources. It is perhaps understandable that where aggrieved people think they are being hardly dealt with by a Government in which they have no voice, they will take steps to have serious matters voiced either in Parliament or brought to the notice of the Secretary for the Colonies.

There was an old
person of Biscay
Whose wife had lock'd
up all the whisky,
But just take a look
At the wily old cook,
Who said, "Sir, I can do it with
this key."

Various boards scattered
TARDY, ed throughout the
Colony, proclaim that
Mr. W. Chatham is the Director of
Public Works, or the Water
Authority. We may be wrong, of
course but we think this is
incorrect. What's in a name
perhaps. A Water Authority by
any name would still be the same.

Line is admittedly
THE BLUE famous the world
FUNNEL over. In almost
every port in the
world is to be seen the familiar
blue funnel. The fleet now com-
prises 90 vessels with a combined
tonnage of considerably over half
a million, making over 200 annual
voyages to most of the principal
ports of the world. The fleet
begins with the little auxiliary
steamer the *Dumbarton Youth* of
under 300 tons gross register.
What the Blue Funnel line has
contributed to the expansion of
trade and commerce during the
last seventy years would take too
long to tell. It certainly has been
very real.

Nothing much has
PEARLS been heard of cultured
pearls. In the mean-
time we continue to have offered
us "pearl" necklaces in neat boxes
which leave us wondering where
the imitation pearls is going to
stop. The Eastern belief that
pearls placed in rice could breed
other pearls has its counterpart in
one of the earliest inquiries made by
the Royal Society. Learning that
diamonds were found in gravel,
and that if the gravel was left un-
disturbed a second crop materialized,
they requested one of their
affiliated ships' captains to in-
vestigate the matter. Unfortun-
ately there is no record as to the
results of the captain's research.

Following on what
TASORE appeared in the
China Mail on Wed-
nesday is the following which
appeared in a Singapore paper as
a letter to the Editor. It sums up
the feeling of a good many people
there, and that feeling has resulted
in the decision to extend to the
distinguished Tasore a welcome
as befitting the man and all that he
stands for.

I understand that Dr. Tagore,
the celebrated poet and philoso-
pher is coming to Singapore.
A great man is not the exclusive
property of a single nation or
community but of all. He is the
living inspirer and messenger of
the twentieth century. His
works, translated into the
English, German, Dutch, Chinese
and Japanese languages, and
drama nations do reap the benefit
of his calm, thinking, sober
understanding, and his poetic
genius. His works are widely
read and appreciated by the
English, the German, the
Chinese, and the Japanese.
I understand that the man who
showed him to a seat and the one

who handed him a programme
were from the Detective Bureau.
Similarly, the drivers of the taxis
used were also attached to that
service, and even the waiters and
dancers at the places visited by
the Prince in this free from official
trivialities holiday.

There are 1600 people
MACS. in Ireland who possess
"Mac" surnames, as
compared with 460 in Glasgow.
What is to be deducted from this?
That Scotch people are invading
Ireland and either absorbing or
being absorbed?

has exercised the
DANCING minds and legs of
not a few people.

We are familiar with the
argument, in certain directions, that it
is immoral—that it undermines
the health—that in short it does
all sorts of things that its
"inventors" never dreamt of.
The latest question that has
arisen concerning it is, is dancing
a sport? The question has been
put to a number of Parisians in
view of the pending opening of
the Olympic Games, and that an
international dancing Champion-
ship is about to be competed for
under the auspices of the Academy
of Dancing Masters. One declares
that dancing is both pleasure and
sport. Another declares that as
practised in the salons of Paris
is not a sport but an epidemic
and an encumbering malady.
Carpenter the boxer says it is
a sport that combines the
useful with the agreeable. It is
a graceful sport which gives
suppleness and harmony to the
body. Which is very kind of
him. All this is very interesting
and should prove an interesting
topic of discussion in Hongkong.
Our observation leads us to the
conclusion that in certain
directions it is a tragedy, in
others a comedy, and on the
whole a pleasant method of
getting rid of a few hanging
hours. We should add that it all
depends—upon your partner!

There was an old
person of Biscay
Whose wife had lock'd
up all the whisky,
But just take a look
At the wily old cook,
Who said, "Sir, I can do it with
this key."

Various boards scattered
TARDY, ed throughout the
Colony, proclaim that
Mr. W. Chatham is the Director of
Public Works, or the Water
Authority. We may be wrong, of
course but we think this is
incorrect. What's in a name
perhaps. A Water Authority by
any name would still be the same.

Line is admittedly
THE BLUE famous the world
FUNNEL over. In almost
every port in the
world is to be seen the familiar
blue funnel. The fleet now com-
prises 90 vessels with a combined
tonnage of considerably over half
a million, making over 200 annual
voyages to most of the principal
ports of the world. The fleet
begins with the little auxiliary
steamer the *Dumbarton Youth* of
under 300 tons gross register.
What the Blue Funnel line has
contributed to the expansion of
trade and commerce during the
last seventy years would take too
long to tell. It certainly has been
very real.

Nothing much has
PEARLS been heard of cultured
pearls. In the mean-
time we continue to have offered
us "pearl" necklaces in neat boxes
which leave us wondering where
the imitation pearls is going to
stop. The Eastern belief that
pearls placed in rice could breed
other pearls has its counterpart in
one of the earliest inquiries made by
the Royal Society. Learning that
diamonds were found in gravel,
and that if the gravel was left un-
disturbed a second crop materialized,
they requested one of their
affiliated ships' captains to in-
vestigate the matter. Unfortun-
ately there is no record as to the
results of the captain's research.

Following on what
TASORE appeared in the
China Mail on Wed-
nesday is the following which
appeared in a Singapore paper as
a letter to the Editor. It sums up
the feeling of a good many people
there, and that feeling has resulted
in the decision to extend to the
distinguished Tasore a welcome
as befitting the man and all that he
stands for.

I understand that Dr. Tagore,
the celebrated poet and philoso-
pher is coming to Singapore.
A great man is not the exclusive
property of a single nation or
community but of all. He is the
living inspirer and messenger of
the twentieth century. His
works, translated into the
English, German, Dutch, Chinese
and Japanese languages, and
drama nations do reap the benefit
of his calm, thinking, sober
understanding, and his poetic
genius. His works are widely
read and appreciated by the
English, the German, the
Chinese, and the Japanese.
I understand that the man who
showed him to a seat and the one

that the Indians know less of the
man than of his name.
Singapore, which is the home
of all nationalities and peoples
should extend a cordial welcome
worthy of his ideas and
achievement.

To-day's Poem.

(Night).
The stars about the lovely moon
Fade back and vanish very soon
When round and full her silver
face
Swims into sight, and lights all
space.
—Sappho.
Translated by Sir Edwin Arnold.

WEATHER CALENDAR.

MARCH 27.

1662. By coach to Deptford, it
being very windy any
rainy weather, taking a
cold and some prawns in
Fish Street with us—
Pepys.

THE ORIGIN OF PROGRESS.

Whatever the moral and intel-
lectual progress of men may be,
it resolves itself into a pro-
gress of natural capacity, but into
a progress, if I may so say, of
opportunity—that is, an improve-
ment in the circumstances under
which the capacity after birth
comes into play. Here, then, lies
the gist of the whole matter. The
progress is one, not of internal
power, but of external advantage.
The child born in a civilised land
is not likely, as such, to be
superior to one born among bar-
barians, and the difference which
ensues between the acts of the
two children will be caused, so far
as we know, solely by the pressure
of external circumstances; by
which I mean the surrounding
opinions, knowledge, associations;
in a word, the entire mental
atmosphere in which the two
children are respectively nurtured.
—Buckle.

SHADOWS BEFORE.

Coming Events Advertised
In The Mail.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

March 27.—Coronet Theatre;
"Fair Lady."
March 27.—Star Theatre;
"The Witching Hour."
March 27.—World Theatre;
"Lights Out."
March 29.—Theatre Royal;
Grand Concert, 9.15 p.m.
SOCIAL.
March 28.—Lieut.-Col. W. O. S.
Sandes and officers of the Royal
Artillery, "A. B. Homes" to their
friends, 8 and 6 p.m.
April 13.—Public Dinner to Sir
William Rees Davies at Hongkong
Hotel, 8 p.m.
April 2.—St. Andrew's Fete in
the Church Hall and grounds,
Kowloon, 2.30 p.m.
SPORT.
March 27.28.—Royal Artillery
Athletic Meeting at U.S.R.O.
Ground, Kowloon.
March 29.—H.K. Jockey Club
extra race meeting.
April 2.—Annual Athletic Sports
of the University of Hongkong.
PUBLIC AUCTIONS.
March 29.—Lammet Bros. at
Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, 6
bales blankets, 11 a.m.
April 1.—Lammet Bros. at
Godown No. 1 H.K. Kowloon
Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd., Kow-
loon, 100 tons sulphate of ammonia,
11 a.m.
April 1.—Lammet Bros. at
Chater Bungalows, 88 Nathan Road,
Kowloon; household furniture, 2.45
p.m.
April 1.—Lammet Bros. at
Sales Rooms, Duddell St. the s.s.
"Hewitt," 11 a.m.
COMPANY MEETINGS.
March 29.—Further extraordinary
general meeting of the Hong-
kong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd.,
at Messrs. Jardine Matheson's
Office, 11 a.m.
March 29.—Ordinary Meeting of
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd., at
Company's office, 20, Des Voeux
Road, 11 a.m.
March 31.—Forty-sixth annual
meeting of shareholders of the
China Sugar Refining Co., at
Messrs. Jardine Matheson's Office,
at 11 a.m.
OTHER MEETINGS.
March 27.—Third annual general
meeting of the British Legion in the
Board room of Messrs. Jardine
Matheson Ltd., 5.30 p.m.
March 28.—Annual meeting of
Members of the Association of ex-
ports and dealers of Hongkong
Chartered Bank Building, 4 p.m.

London, March 26.—The
Japanese steamer "Tokufuku Maru"
from Bremen for Japan was sunk
in a collision with the German
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Dutch and British ships.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Augustus Thomas' greatest
mystery play, "The Witching
Hour" featuring Elliot Dexter
in the leading role, is the big
attraction at the Star Theatre this
evening.

Messrs. Donnelly and Whyte
send the *China Mail* samples of
"Kensitas" Virginia Cigarettes,
an exceedingly affable smoke
which should soon become popu-
lar.

Re. A. Boardman, late secre-
tary of the Kuala Lumpur Sanitary
Board, is being committed to
the High Court on a charge of
criminal misappropriation of a
sum of \$835. Bail was granted
in the sum of \$1,500.

A Batavia message says that
Noring Genting, editor of a
newspaper called *Batak* while
sitting at his writing table was
shot at, with a poisoned arrow
through a window and died on the
spot.

In connection with the British
naval visit to Bangkok it is un-
derstood that the King and Queen
of Siam will go out on the royal
yacht "Mahachakri" and pay a visit
to the "Hawking." The *Yamato*
says that Their Majesties will take
tea with Admiral Sir Arthur
Leveson and Lady Leveson.

Cinema patrons have their
last opportunity this evening of
seeing "Fair Lady," the film
version of Rex Beach's popular
novel. The film, which is being
shown at the Coronet Theatre
along with a delightfully amusing
two-part comedy entitled "Stolen
Glory."

It is announced that next
Saturday the Warren Memorial
and Bellifos Cops will be sailed
for by the racing yachts of the
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club and
at the same time the race for the
Consolation Cup will be sailed off.
On Sunday the La Cigale and Niobe
Cups will be competed for by the
cruisers.

After keen bidding yester-
day at Lammer Bros. auction
rooms, the property known as
"Oaklands" covering an area of
29,312 square feet in Bonham Road
up to Littleton Road, was sold
to Mr. Shun-fan for \$315,000.
Bidding started at \$140,000, went
to \$150,000, and then steadily by
\$10,000's to \$310,000, the last
\$5,000 gaining the lot for Mr. Li.

According to a *Daily Bulletin*
cable from Ichang, the Yangtze
Rapids Navigation Company's
steamer "Chipping," of which
Messrs. Gillespie & Co., are the
agents there, while on her maiden
trip to Chungking, struck the rocks
at Kungling Rapids on the
morning of the 21st. The form
hold contains about eight feet of
water and the cargo is seriously
damaged. Salvage gear was
despatched on the morning of the
24th. The "Chipping" is reported to
be in no immediate danger.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Bishops Graves, Potts and Roots,
Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, Mr. and
Mrs. C. D. Lambert and Mr. and
Mrs. P. V. Botelho are passengers
on the outgoing "President"
Wilson.

Mr. W. J. Carroll, Mr. W. B.
Douglas, Bishop Mosher, Mr. A.
A. Ritchie and Mr. Iron Bux are
passengers on the "Empress of
Russia" which left yesterday for
Manila.

In the Supreme Court, Kuala
Lumpur, Mr. Rogers speaking of
the sudden death of Mr. Christian
Wagner, paid a high tribute to the
deceased, who was one of the
oldest and most respected mem-
bers of the F. M. S. Bar. Mr.
Wagner entered Government
service in 1881, and on his retire-
ment in 1903 was admitted as an
advocate of the Supreme Court.
He was one of the great linguists,
speaking eight oriental languages
as thoroughly as his mother tongue.
Mr. Justice Whitley said that
during his association with Mr.
Wagner he had learnt to honour
and respect him.

Mr. T. S. Baker, Inspector of the
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking
Corporation, with Mrs. Baker,
has arrived in Kuala Lumpur via
the *Malay Mail*. Mr. Baker is by
no means a stranger in these
parts, adds the paper, for he was
in Singapore about forty years ago
in the same bank and came back as
manager for the period 1906-1917
covering both the "9" and the
rubber boom during which time
he opened the bank's branches in
Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, Ipoh and
Johore Bahru. He was the Chair-
man of Commerce representative
on the Legislative Council, and
immediately before Mr. Darlington.
He is, of course, the father of
Mr. C. J. Baker, of Messrs. Baker,
Morgan and Co., Ltd., a lady with
enthusiasm will be interested to
hear that Mrs. S. Baker, though
widowed, became Lady Chapman
of California about a quarter of a
century ago.

CORRESPONDENCE.

V. R. C. POOL.

[To the Editor of the "China Mail."]

Sir,—As a frequent visitor to the
Victoria Recreation Club, it is
needless to state that during the
swimming season I have indulged
in the use of the pool.

The point of fact which I am
about to bring to notice is an
abstract appearing a short while
ago to one of the Australian papers
complaining of the bad state in
which some of the baths were
kept; and the writer, a world
known swimmer, goes on to say
that on several occasions he has
refrained from participating in
various contests solely on this
account.

In citing the above, I do not
intend to cast any reflection on
the Club here, but a little more
attention on the part of those
responsible for the condition of
the pool would undoubtedly
improve matters, and thus
safeguard the Club from future
complaints which might come
from an anonymous critic.

Yours etc.,
VISITOR.
Hongkong, March 26, 1924.

COURT MARTIAL.

KING'S PRIVATE ADMITS
DESERTING.

At a District Court Martial held
at Murray Barracks this morning,
Private R. G. Baker of the 2nd Bn.
King's Regiment pleaded guilty to
three charges of desertion, escaping
from confinement when in deten-
tion at Hongkong, and remaining
absent for three months, and losing
by neglect his regimental clothes.

Major A. L. Cruickshank D.S.O.
(R.G.A.) presided and other mem-
bers of the Court were Capt. D. S.
Hey of the 24th Bombay
Grenadiers (K.E.O.) and 2/Lieut.
L. W. Richards 1st Bn. East
Surrey Regt.

The evidence given showed
that Private Baker deserted on
November 9th last year and was
arrested in plain clothes by the
Military Police at Kowloon on
February 11th this year.

Lieut. A. L. Sutton of the East
Surreys acted as prosecutor and
submitted prisoner's record which
showed many previous mis-
deemeanors.

The prisoner reserved his de-
fence and handed in a written
statement.

Sentence will be promulgated
in due course.

"DOING" HONGKONG.

"RESOLUTE" TOURISTS SEE
MORE SIGHTS.

Tourists from the world voyag-
ing "Resolute" added further to
their list of sights yesterday and
to-day. In various parties or in
wandering couples they did
Hongkong and its environs
with a thoroughness which
left little to be desired. The
Peak, its glorious panoramic
view, Happy Valley, Kowloon,
the New Territories, all claimed
admiration and the visitors were
not stinted nor mean in their
appreciation. During this morning
few tourists were to be seen in the
city; they have embarked on their
trip to escape business; to ex-
perience something fresh and
wisely they are seeking and
finding the thrill of new sensation.
What could be more inspiring than
the wonderful view from the
Peak on a clear and brilliant day
as was to-day?

Of course, there were the usual
little comedies, exuberant, but
funny, owing to the tourists'
strangeness, his general bewilder-
ment. In a well-known jeweller's
shop a loquacious, but eager old
lady asked to see a great jade
necklace. It was priced at so
many thousands of dollars, a year's
savings of the average man in
Hongkong. The tourist was
aghast and walked out, naïvely
saying it was an extortionate price,
that she could get the same
thing down the road for \$60!
Yet these tourists cannot be
disappointed with Hongkong.
If they wander into its beauty
spots. So different from Singa-
pore, Shanghai and other Far
Eastern ports, the tourist has in
this forceful American, which
despite its ruggedness is expres-
sive, summed up the Colony in
one of his quip phrases. "Say
boy! This is the real
goods." It is to those who know
it. The "Resolute" will leave
tomorrow morning for Shanghai.

MINING DISASTER.

OVER 40 MEN BELIEVED
KILLED.

Tashan, March 26.—A sudden
inflow of clay and sand into a number
of galleries in one of the Tashan
coal-mines, entombed 50 miners.
Owing to continued rain, the
main shaft, which was the only
exit, was blocked. The miners
were not rescued until the water
was pumped out. It is feared that
more than 40 of them are now
dead.

CHINA COAST PIRACY EVIL.

WHAT THE NAVY IS DOING.

Stricter Supervision Of Passengers Required.
MORE QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

(Reuter's General Service.)

London, March 26.
Replying to Mrs. Philipson, Mr. C. G. Ammon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, pointed out that vessels on the China Station were continually patrolling with the object of checking piracy but stricter supervision of passengers at the port of departure was the only effective preventive.

He understood that Mr. Thomas, Minister for the Colonies, was awaiting a report from the Governor of Hongkong on the subject.

[Mrs. Hilton Philipson has been Conservative M.P. for Berwick-on-Tweed since 1923. The report mentioned is evidently the detailed report which Mr. Thomas recently announced in the House of Commons he had asked the Governor to furnish with regard to the "Hydrangea," the British steamer which was attacked by pirates whilst on her way from Hongkong to Swatow. The "Hydrangea" left here with 500 Chinese passengers and 300 tons of cargo. About seven o'clock in the evening, at a given signal, the pirates, who were armed and distributed throughout the vessel as well as deck passengers, surprised the Indian guard, whom they disarmed. They then rushed the saloon, where the captain and officers were dining. The pirates soon obtained control of the steamer, which their pilot navigated to Bias Bay, where the "Hydrangea" ran aground. The pirates then succeeded in making good their escape to the shore after looting the steamer, which they abandoned at four o'clock in the morning. No casualties occurred and the pirates did not harm the British officers of the vessel, to whom they offered oranges and cigarettes, and even blankets.]

RIVER STEAMER CONVOYS.

From Monday the convoy system was introduced for river steamers. Ships other than those operated by the Steamboat Co. usually leave between 9 and 9.30 p.m. while the Steamboat Co.'s vessels, including the "Fatshan" belonging to the China Navigation Co., sail at 10 p.m. The earlier boats wait at Cap-sul-mun for the Steamboat Co.'s vessel and then proceed together to Canton, entering the delta at Boca Tigris as hitherto. A system of rocket signals is understood to be in force.

On the down trip from Canton, the vessels also proceed in "close formation." On reaching Castle Peak the convoy gradually breaks up as each vessel makes for its wharf independently.

Our informant was not definite as to the presence of a British gunboat escort each night. As far as he knows, one has followed the convoy every night this week, keeping close behind the last ship.

He believes that Chinese naval boats are regularly patrolling a part of the journey between Hongkong and Kowloon. Vessels on this line leave Hongkong about 7 p.m. (except on Saturday nights) and they are also reported as having come into line by keeping close together. They leave Kowloon fairly late in the afternoon, on the arrival of the down train from the interior and get in here after midnight.

THAT NAVAL BASE.

QUEENSLAND PREMIER'S OPINION.

FUTURE OF THE PACIFIC.

LONDON, March 27.

Mr. Theodore, Premier of Queensland, speaking at a dinner given by the Knights of the Round Table said that if by delaying the commencement of work at Singapore, some process could be carried through which would lead to greater amity among the nations nobody could say the delay would be fatal.

He realized that in the event of a clash in the Pacific Australian interests might be affected. They would be blind if they did not guard against the possibility of disaster. The policy of the British people, however, was not of aggrandisement but of a desire to see British rule developed in its own conception of freedom.

Japan and Australia were going to loom out of the future in the Pacific and it would be a benefit to the world if they could live in amity. Mr. Theodore thought the hope of the world lay in the League of Nations.

The Japanese naval attaché was among the guests.

CANADA RECOGNISES RUSSIA.

(Reuter's American Service.)

OTTAWA, March 27.

Replying to M. Yaskoff, head of the Soviet trade delegation in Canada, who enquired whether Britain's recognition of the Soviet Republic comprehended Canada, the Premier, Mr. Mackenzie King, has written stating in the best interests of both countries Canada is prepared to recognise the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

EXPERT CHESS.

NEW YORK, March 27.

In the eighth round of the chess tourney Capablanca drew with Maroczy.

DECLINED.

Budapest, March 26.

Mr. Harding, former President of the United States, declined the offer of appointment as Ambassador to Hungary in connection with the reconstruction loan.

\$1,000 GONE.

SHROFF'S UNUSUAL ENCOUNTER.

MYSTERIOUS STRANGERS.

How he was met by two strangers at mid-day under the P. and O. veranda and relieved of over \$1,000 is related by a shroff in the employ of Messrs. Lever Bros. commodity department.

The shroff says that the strangers, Chinese dressed in European clothes, showed him a slip with "The Bank of Canton" written in English on it and asked to be directed as they could not read it. In the course of conversation, the shroff asserts, the harmless looking individuals blew "a kind of mystifying smoke" into his face causing him to lose his faculties. At any rate he alleges that they took from him \$1,260 which he was entrusted to pay into the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, together with what loose cash he had and a gold watch and chain.

This story has been accepted by the police with some reserve.

ORPHAN HOME.

SEEKING A SUITABLE SITE.

That levelling of the site together with constructing a motor road to the proposed building would cost over \$200,000 is the reason given in the latest report about the Chinese Orphans' Home for a decision to decline the Government's offer of a plot of land near Aberdeen.

Some time ago, a number of prominent Chinese who include the Hon. Mr. R. H. Kotewall, Messrs. Wong Kwong-tin, Li Yau-chuen, and Li Kwong-kwong, associated themselves in a movement to found a home for Hongkong orphans and waifs in Hongkong. Through the S.C.A.'s efforts a piece of land at Aberdeen was offered and over \$500,000 was promised by the various founders.

Another reason for declining the site is that it is not as large as is desired. Hence, also the application for an alternative site. It is now stated that the Government is considering the suitability of a site at Shaikwan.

Five men are alleged to have stolen the sum of \$1,000 from the Chinese Orphans' Home at Aberdeen on Monday, and to have hidden the money in a house at Shaikwan. The police are now searching for the thieves.

RENTS RIDDLE.

S.C.A.'S DELICATE POSITION.

SHOULD HE GIVE EVIDENCE?

Whether or not the Secretary for Chinese Affairs and his assistants should, by virtue of their position, be exempted from the necessity of giving evidence about matters within their ken was a point raised in a somewhat complicated series of Rents Ordinance cases heard before Mr. Justice Gompertz at the Summary Court today.

There were eleven cases altogether and as the circumstances were almost identical they were taken together. Appearing for the plaintiffs (Yeung Chik-fook and Ho Shue-king), Mr. H. C. MacNamara explained that his clients were the landlords of certain premises known as 102-116 First Street, and on October 26 twenty five tenants living there were given three months notice to quit on the ground that the building was to be pulled down and entirely rebuilt. It was admitted, Mr. MacNamara said, that this was a good notice, under the "reconstruction" section of the Rents Ordinance but it was argued on behalf of the tenants that it was not a good notice in common law because it did not expire with the current month of the respective tenancies.

Mr. MacNamara went on to explain that fourteen of the tenants cleared out and the other eleven, who were the defendants in the present cases, took the matter to the Secretary for Chinese Affairs and as a result a compromise was arranged. In consideration of being allowed to remain on a little longer the defendants agreed to quit on March 4. In view of this the landlords entered into a contract to have the building demolished on March 5 and they would certainly be liable for damages if they could not get their tenants out and begin the work.

Mr. MacNamara went into the law of landlord and tenant at some length and His Honour remarked that judging from the array of law books on the table Mr. C. A. S. Russ, the defendants' solicitor, was prepared to do the same.

"Yes," Mr. MacNamara acquiesced smilingly, "I see he has all the authorities—ancient and modern—and as I think I shall persevere. Your Lordship—more ancient than modern." (Laughter.)

Mr. MacNamara went on to quote a case which he said appeared on a list given to the Puisse Judge's clerk.

His Honour, I am afraid I could not get any of these cases you sent me because you gentlemen had already annexed them. (Laughter.)

Mr. MacNamara: It must have been Mr. Russ—I have not had any from the law library. He had subpoenaed Mr. Nihil, of the S.C.A.'s office, before whom the agreement was concluded, to appear as a witness but he understood that the S.C.A. (Mr. A. E. Wood) would object to Mr. Nihil giving evidence.

His Honour: Of course it rather lessens the usefulness of the S.C.A. if he is liable to be called into court at any moment to give evidence in a dispute which he has endeavoured to settle by way of a compromise.

Mr. MacNamara said the answer to that was that it also diminished the usefulness of the S.C.A. if people made a compromise before he and did not carry them out as has happened in this case.

Mr. Russ said his position on this point was that when the notice to quit was given some of the tenants went to the S.C.A., not having consulted a solicitor, to see if the notice was a good one and to ask for an extension of time. It was possible some arrangement was made there. There were, however, some tenants who did not go.

Stating the objections held by the S.C.A. to his giving evidence, Mr. J. H. B. Nihil said he was instructed by Mr. Wood to lodge an objection to giving evidence of proceedings or conversations in the office of the S.C.A. on the grounds that it would be prejudicial and injurious to the public interests and service. Mr. Wood had asked him to say that in his opinion the usefulness of his department would be impaired if his position as confidential adviser to the Chinese public was broken through either himself or his assistants having to publish what went on in his office. Mr. Nihil said the objection was one of principle and Mr. Wood desired, if necessary, to instruct the law officers to argue the matter.

His Honour: Mr. Wood wishes to carry it as far as that? (Mr. Nihil): Yes, My Lord. Mr. Justice Gompertz indicated at this stage that he would consider the point and announce his decision after the usual adjournment. Mr. MacNamara then proceeded with his address.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

TYPHOON AND EARTHQUAKE EFFECTS.

Allusions to the Hongkong typhoon and the Japanese earthquake were made by the Chairman at this morning's meeting of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., which was held in the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. Ltd. Mr. D. G. M. Bernard presided and there were present: The Hon. Sir Paul Chater and Messrs. H. P. White, T. E. Pearce, A. S. Gubbay and C. Bernard Brown (Consulting Committee), F. C. Hall (Secretary), and the following shareholders:—The Hon. Mr. Chan Siu-ki and Messrs. W. E. L. Shenton, J. Arnold, D. V. Stevenson, Felix M. Ellis, Ho Loung, N. V. A. Croucher, R. L. Bridger, A. Denison, C. Savard-Remedios, G. V. Osmund, A. H. M. da Silva.

The Chairman said:—It is a matter of great satisfaction to your General Managers and Consulting Committee that the account for the year 1922, which they now present, should again constitute a record, the credit balance exceeding that for the year 1921 by the sum of \$2,609,30. Premium income and interest show increases of approximately \$40,000 and \$19,000 respectively, and these increases are in spite of the higher rate of exchange, of rather more than one penny, at which the account for 1922 is shown. The ratios for losses and expenses work out at \$1.06 per cent. and \$5.56 per cent. respectively, as against 38.34 per cent. and 33.06 per cent. for the year 1921.

The balance at credit of the working account for 1922 is \$515,163.24, or \$116,000 less than the carry forward for 1922 after twelve months' working. In considering this account it must be remembered that 1922 proved a record year in every way, but previous to that year the carry forward for 1923 has only twice been exceeded. It is early yet to hazard any opinion as to the ultimate result but at present we see no reason why this account should not be in line with its immediate predecessors.

The surplus now to be dealt with is \$683,749.89. We recommend the payment of a dividend of \$35 per share, absorbing \$280,000; the appropriation of \$200,000 to the reserve fund; and the balance of \$153,749.89 at 2/3%—\$17,857.32 to be placed to the credit of reinsurance fund. The reserve fund will then stand at \$2,000,000.00 and the reinsurance fund at \$138,820.60.

The investment and exchange fluctuation account again shows an increase of approximately \$185,000; this is due to the further appreciation in the value of securities held by the Company.

You will, I trust, approve of the usual bonus of 15 per cent. on their salaries being granted to the staff.

Fire losses in the Far East during the period under review have not been numerous or severe, but you will, perhaps, wish me to say a few words with regard to the effect upon the Company of the two disasters in our local field last year, viz., the earthquake in Japan in September and the typhoon in Hongkong of August 18.

In connection with the former, we only had on our books one small insurance in Yokohama against the risk of fire arising from earthquake, and as subsequent investigations have revealed that the insured property withstood the shocks but was ultimately destroyed by fire, liability for the loss was admitted and settlement authorised.

Liability for loss or damage from both earthquake shock and from fire arising from earthquake is expressly excluded from the risks covered under the universal policy conditions adopted by all the leading British and foreign offices, and these two risks can only be covered at an additional premium, which in Japan is exceptionally heavy. Consequently only an infinitesimal proportion of the owners of destroyed properties in Yokohama and Tokio had protected themselves against loss from either of these causes, so that the liability of the various insurance companies under their ordinary fire policies is "nil" and under special "earthquake" policies it must also be comparatively trifling.

As regards the Hongkong typhoon, although the volume of the Company's insurance against typhoon risks has shown a steady increase in recent years, I am glad to be able to state that, in spite

"MUI TSAI"

SERIOUS ILL-TREATMENT ALLEGED.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER CHARGE.

Although relegated to a position of comparative obscurity, the question of Mui Tsai still crops up occasionally.

This morning Mr. R. E. A. Webster defended two Chinese ladies, mother and daughter, who appeared in the Police Court to answer alleged offences in connection with their maid servant.

It transpired from the evidence that the charge against the mother and daughter was that they had been found guilty of having been before the Secretary for Chinese Affairs who instructed him to take it to Court.

His Worship fixed bail at \$1,000 each. On Mr. Webster's application for reduction of bail the amount, he said, was \$500 in cash and \$500 in a bond which he accepted for each. At any rate, remarked Mr. Landsell, if the case was found proved, defendants would be sent to prison without the option of a fine.

DR. SUN'S NAVY.

SCRAMBLE FOR POWER?

KONGMOON CHANGES.

PAK-KAI, KONGMOON, March 26.

All the Chinese gunboats previously stationed here have disappeared with the exception of the "Kwong Hung." This is supposed to be due to recruitment, at Lam Yau-ke taking over the role of Admiral-Constable Defence Commissioner, or from being shipped to-day. Fung is one of Chun Chai's closest friends and it is deduced that opposition really emanates from a desire to retain the control of Chun's (or his colleagues') hands. Another surprise is that Dr. Sun really used Fung as the stepping stone to getting the navy moved from Chun to Lam, he is anticipated that Chun might refuse to hand over power to Lam directly. Lam assumed command officially as from to-day.

Another report is that all the gunboats have been ordered to Whampoa for further instructions. At any rate the Coast Defence women here is deserted and the staff are absent.

It is now reported that the Coast Defence Bureau is to be established at Whampoa, Pak-kai, the port of Kowloon, is now controlled by Chan Sik-kin, a brigadier general who is virtually Chan Chai's subordinate.

Little of importance has come down from Canton except what may be called "straw in the wind." Ng Ting-ling (Wu Tien-cheng), Police Commissioner, is reported as having been appointed Director of the Anti-Opium Bureau. Another factor is the statement that artillery pieces have been mounted outside the Public Peace (Police headquarters) yamen in Wai Sun Maloc.

of our being substantially interested by insurance on much of the property which suffered damage, the loss was considerably less than we had at first anticipated and was no more than the Company might normally expect to bear in a calamity of this nature.

After the resolution, which I am about to propose, has been seconded, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions arising out of the accounts which shareholders may wish to ask.

I now propose the following resolution:—That the report and accounts as presented, including the payment of a dividend of \$35 per share, an addition to the reserve fund of \$200,000, the transfer of \$17,857.32 in exchange, 2/3%—\$153,749.89 to the credit of reinsurance fund, and the payment to the staff of 15 per cent. upon their salaries, be adopted and passed.

The Chairman's resolution, having been seconded by Mr. Denison, was carried unanimously.

The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Sir Robert Ho Tung and Messrs. C. Bernard Brown, A. H. Gubbay, T. E. Pearce and H. P. White were elected to the Consulting Committee, and the motion of the Hon. Mr. Chan Siu-ki seconded by Mr. D. V. Stevenson.

The resolution as amended by Mr. H. P. White and the Hon. Mr. A. E. Lowe was agreed to on the motion of Mr. Ho Loung seconded by Mr. J. Arnold.

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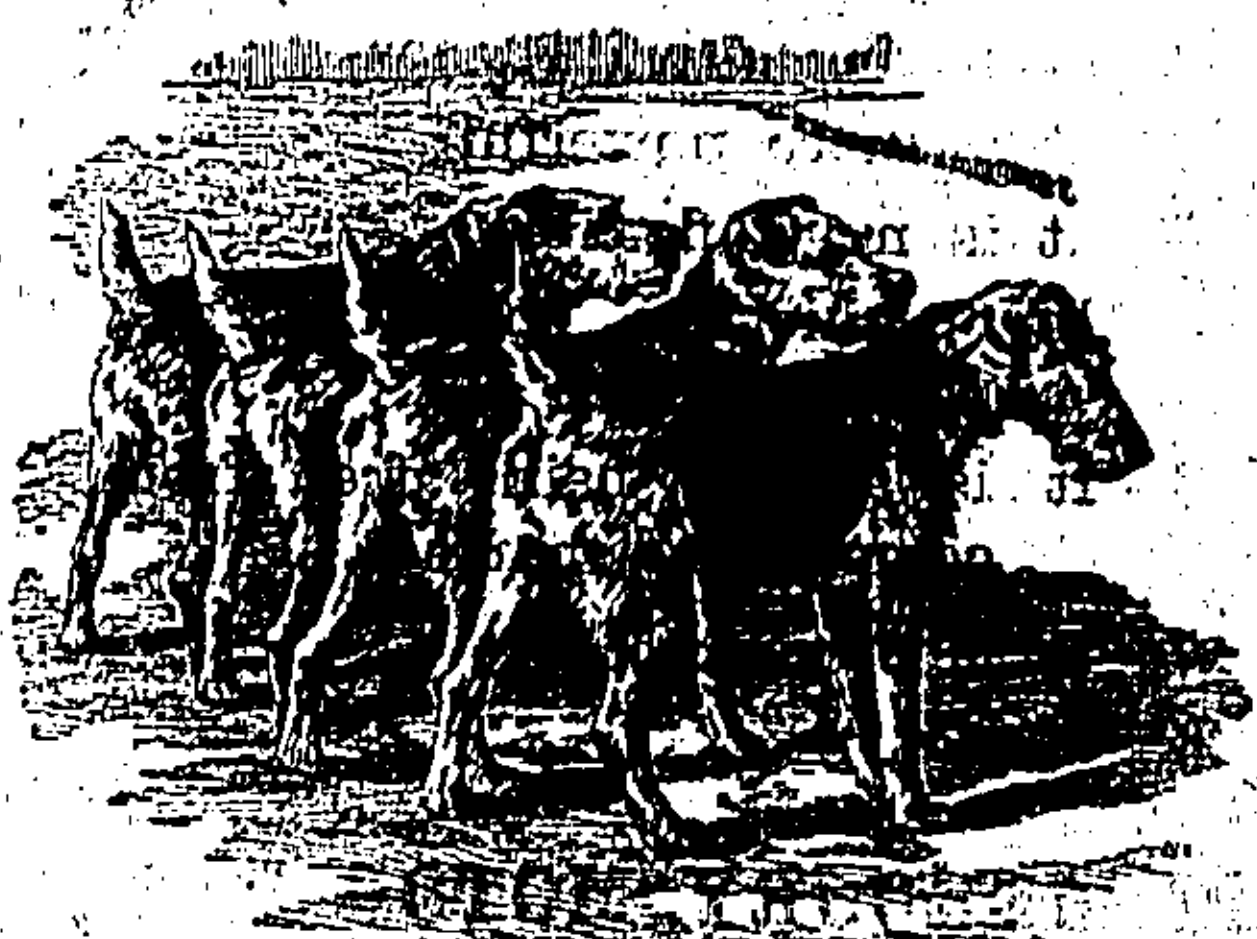
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Photo by Central News.

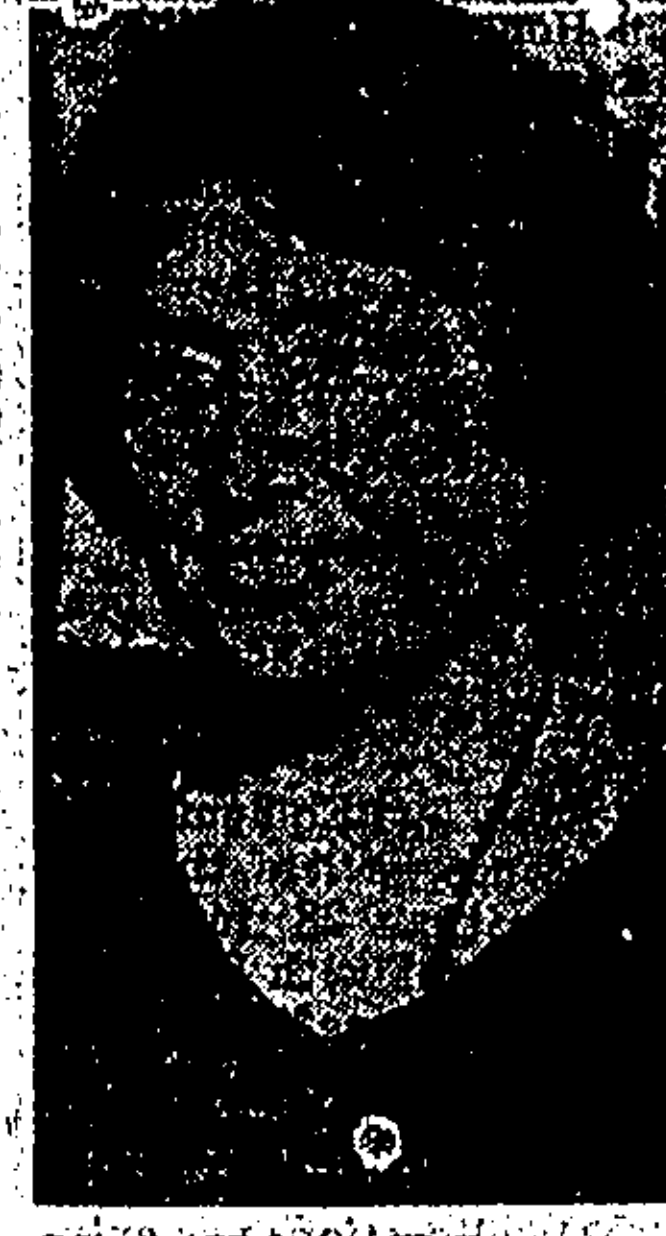
Home Life of British Cabinet Ministers and their Wives and Families.—Mr. Arthur
Henderson, Secretary for Home Affairs, having tea with his wife and daughter.Miss Pauline Caron, charming
cinema star, whose engage-
ment is reported to Gene
Sarazen, American professional
golf champion.Senator Walsh, Chairman of
the Oil Committee, who led
yesterday's Senate debate.Miss Helen Keller, world
famous woman, who has
achieved self-support, indepen-
dence and a reputation as an
author, in spite of deafness,
blindness and lack of speech.

Photo by Central News.

The Saharan natives Ali (left) and Sakari photographed on their arrival in London with
Angus Buchanan (centre). Out of thirty-six these natives alone completed with Mr. Buchanan
the historic expedition of crossing the great Sahara.

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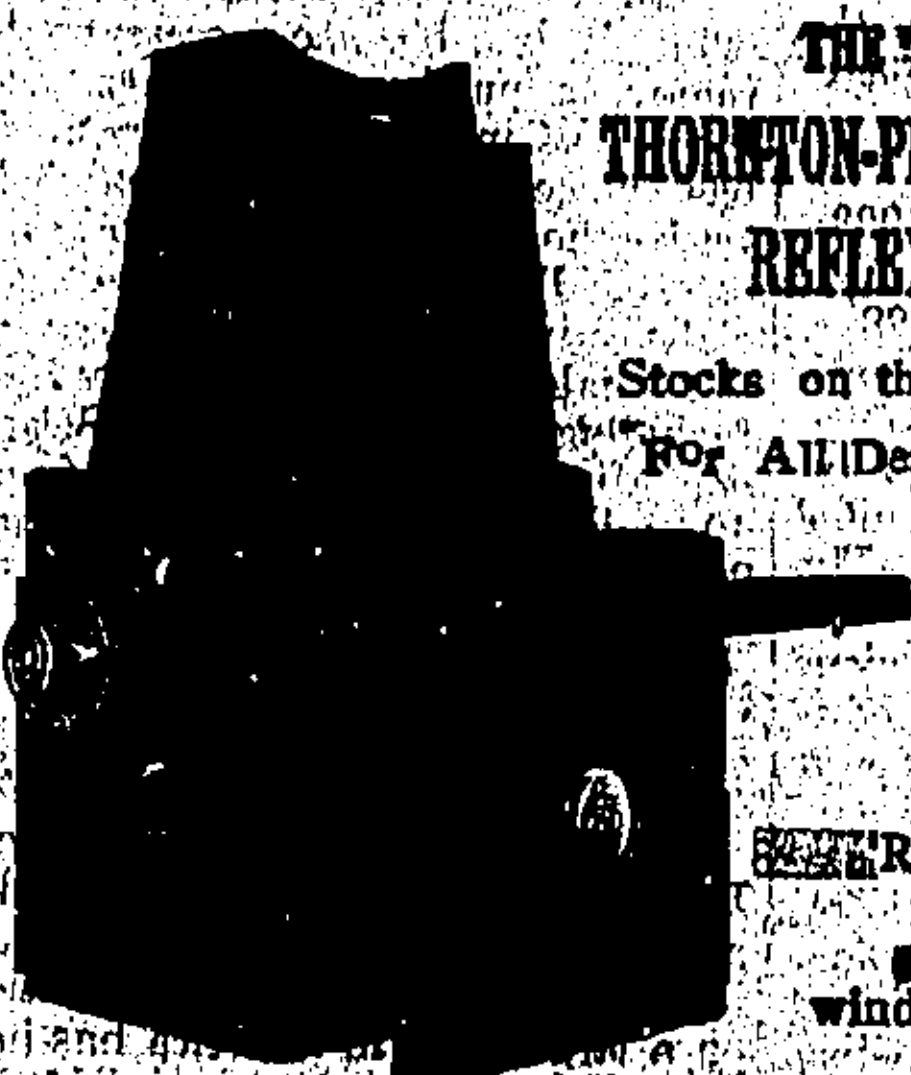
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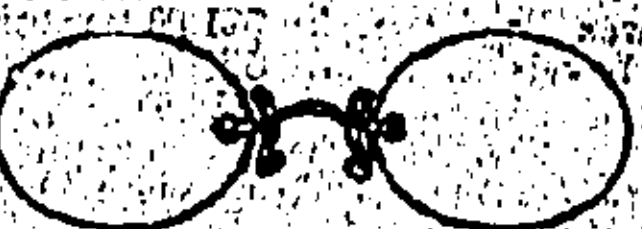
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